

Foster Care Review Office Local Review Board Member Requirements

A Foster Care Review Office Local Review Board Member is a citizen volunteer who after completing the required training program serves with 4-10 other local board members to review the cases of children in foster care from their area. These children may have been placed out of home due to having been abused, neglected, uncontrollable, or for some other reason. The role of the local board member is to ensure that the needs of these children are being met. There are currently about 300 persons serving in this capacity on 48 local boards across the state.

The Foster Care Review Office is an independent state agency given legislative authority to review cases of children in out-of-home care, as well as track, monitor and report on issues. The FCRO assigns cases to the local review boards across the state. The local boards review the materials provided to them for their assigned cases. They meet to discuss the case, interview participants that attend the review board meeting, and then make findings and recommendations for each case. The work done by the local board is then put into a final report that is provided to all legal parties to the case. The majority of these cases are under the Juvenile Court jurisdiction. The court and other legal parties to the case use the local board report to help them decide what is needed by the child and to ensure children are not in foster care longer than necessary.

Requirements for being a Foster Care Review Office, Local Board Member

- Make a commitment to serve as a FCRO local board member for 3 years or for the remainder of the 3 year term if the applicant is replacing another board member.
- Be willing to donate 4 – 7 hours a month. (*2-3 hours of case review at home and approximately 3-4 hours at the review board meeting each month.*)
- Be at least 21 years of age.
- Have their own transportation for getting to and from local board meetings.
- Be literate and able to communicate clearly.
- Complete an application form and provide two acceptable references.
- Allow for and successfully pass a thorough background check.
- Prior to serving on a local board, potential board members must participate in an in-depth training program, consisting of:
 - Successful completion of the training sessions,
 - Read the board training manual / watch training videos,
 - Observing one local board meeting,
 - Have a passion for learning more about the system.
- Come fully prepared to each board meeting, *e.g., having **fully** read each case.*
- Be mature, respectful, objective, honest, professional, non-bias, and non-judgmental.
- Be committed to respecting cultural and economic diversity.
- Respect the confidentiality of all parties.
- Attend one board meeting per month. Board members **must** notify FCRO staff prior to the meeting if they are unable to attend. (The expectation is that board members attend every board meeting, but would be allowed to miss no more than 2 meetings in a calendar year.)
- Complete 6 hours of on-going training every two years.